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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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In Reply Refer to:  
G-Mil

September 9, 1953

Mr. E. R. Saunders, Comptroller  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Saunders:

This letter is in reply to yours of August 31, concerning a study of the Potential Petroleum Resources of the USSR, which CIA has asked the Geological Survey to prepare.

At present the Geological Survey is engaged in another project on behalf of CIA, having to do with the Potential Uranium and Thorium Resources of the USSR, for which funds are being transferred to this Agency. The project is scheduled to be completed in September 1954. As the project has developed over the past four months we have become aware that it is necessary, in order to give complete evaluation of the uranium and thorium resources, to make a study of producing and potentially producing petroleum structures in many parts of the USSR. We feel that this study will contribute data necessary for the proposed Petroleum Resources project.

The uranium and thorium project is being carried on on a regional basis. The report on the first region to be covered within the USSR will be completed by January 1954. It is suggested that, at the appropriate time, a discussion be held between members of the project and representatives of CIA, including [redacted] to determine to what extent the needs of the petroleum resources project are being met by the current project. After this conference the Geological Survey will, if it appears necessary, submit to CIA a revised estimate of the cost of the Petroleum Resources project.

Pending the inter-agency conference, no charges will be made against the fund mentioned in your letter of August 31.

Sincerely,  
s/ Frank C. Whitmore, Jr.  
Frank C. Whitmore, Jr.  
Chief  
Military Geology Branch

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